Remarks

This is in response to the Office Action mailed on September 24, 2008. The Office Action rejected Claims 29-36, 38, 40-44, and 46-48 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by EP 792041 ("Johnson"). Claims 37, 39, and 45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious in light of Johnson and U.S. Patent 6,104,815 ("Alcorn").

Applicant has canceled Claims 31 and 46. Applicant has amended independent Claims 29, 38, 44 and 49. No new matter has been added. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider the present application in view of the following remarks. Applicant submits that all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Independent Claim 29

Independent Claim 29 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of dependent Claim 31. Specifically, Claim 29 recites receiving a secured data product comprising an encrypted first portion and an unencrypted second portion, wherein the first portion comprises indices into data contained in the second portion of the data product. The Office Action indicated that Johnson disclosed this claim element in Fig. 3. Applicant respectfully points out that Fig. 3 of Johnson does not disclose an index; rather, Fig. 3 is a schematic block diagram of a first generator function used in the masking procedure. (See Johnson: column 5, line 57 – column 6, line 1). The block diagram of Fig. 3 shows the first mask value 208 is calculated with a unique value (302, 304, 306) concatenated with part B (204) and the resulting value is hashed with H·(308, 310, 312) to produce a 128 bit value (314/X1, 316/X2, 318/X3). (See Johnson: Figure 3, column 9, lines 28-46). Accordingly, Johnson fails to disclose or suggest the claim element of the encrypted first portion comprises indices into data contained in the unencrypted second portion.

The invention of Claim 29 provides a novel and nonobvious way to secure a data product without encrypting the entire data product. The claimed invention recites that a first portion of the data product -- containing indices into data contained in the second portion -- is encrypted while the second portion is not encrypted. The data product is unusable without decrypting the indices included in the first portion. The first portion is decrypted to obtain the indices, and the data product is used for an intended purpose using the indices to obtain data contained in the second portion of the data product. As discussed above, Johnson does not teach the indices

claim elements; rather, the encrypted portion in Johnson is an encryption key. (See Johnson: column 6, lines 31-35).

For at least these reasons, the Applicant respectfully requests the rejection of independent Claim 29 be withdrawn.

Independent Claim 38

Independent Claim 38 recites a data storage medium holding a set of data comprising an encrypted first portion and an unencrypted second portion of the data product, the unencrypted portion is unusable before decrypting the encrypted portion. The first portion comprises critical data that enables use of the data product, and the critical data is not a decryption key. Claim 38 is not anticipated by Johnson because Johnson fails to disclose or suggest all of the claim elements.

As discussed above, the encrypted portion in Johnson is an encryption key. (See Johnson: column 6, lines 31-35). Thus, Johnson teaches away from the recited claim element and does not anticipate Claim 38. For at least these reasons, the Applicant respectfully requests the rejection of independent Claim 38 be withdrawn.

Independent Claim 44

Independent Claim 44 recites a data product comprising an encrypted first portion and an unencrypted second portion, and the first portion comprises indices into data contained in the second portion of the data product. For similar reasons discussed above in conjunction with Claim 29, Johnson fails to disclose or suggest this claim element. The Applicant respectfully requests the rejection of Claim 44 be withdrawn.

Independent Claims 49

Applicant has amended independent Claims 49 to more clearly recite one aspect of the present invention. Amended Claim 49 recites dividing the database into a first portion and second portion. The first portion comprises the critical data selected from the group consisting of: decompression parameters, indices, and global data and the critical data is not a decryption key. For similar reasons discussed above in conjunction with Claim 38, Johnson fails to disclose

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or suggest this claim element. The Applicant respectfully requests the rejection of Claim 49 be withdrawn.
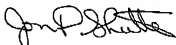
Dependent Claims 30, 32-37, 39-43, 45 and 47-48

Applicant's dependent Claims 30, 32-37, 39-43, 45 and 47-48 are allowable at least for the reason that they depend upon allowable base claims. In addition, these claims include features that are not disclosed by the cited references.

Conclusion

With the present response, all the issues in the Office Action mailed September 24, 2008 have been addressed. Applicant submits that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. If any issues remain, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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